

Marching Band in Crestview, Florida for their remarkable performance in the 79th annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

The Big Red Machine, directed by David Cadle, was chosen as one of six high school bands to perform in the renowned parade. As everyone knows, Macy's saves the best for last with Santa Claus arriving in Herald Square. This holds true for marching bands as Crestview was honored to celebrate Santa's yearly anticipated arrival in to Herald Square, while millions of Americans were at home watching with excitement.

The band's dedication and hard work was apparent throughout the show. Awakening the holiday spirit in each and every one of us, they welcomed in the holiday season with warmth and joy as they performed a colorful rendition of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." Watching their smiling faces as they marched into the Square reminded me of how proud I am to represent the people of North-west Florida.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize and congratulate the Crestview High School Marching Band for their outstanding performance in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

TRIBUTE TO LOIS BROCKMAN WELLINGTON

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and accomplishments of Lois Brockman Wellington, an amazing public servant, leader, caregiver, and friend.

Lois was an exceptionally dedicated health provider, both for her family members and for the community she cared about so dearly. She became a champion of home care providers and long term care for seniors, and dedicated herself to the well-being of the aging.

As a representative of Los Angeles County in the California Senior Legislature, Lois successfully pursued legislation on behalf of both youth and the aged. She also represented U.S. Senator BARBARA BOXER as a Silver Senator to the National Silver Haired Congress. This organization holds annual meetings to discuss senior concerns and has been particularly active on social security and prescription drug policies. Lois was also President of the Congress of California Seniors. In this role, she advocated positions on numerous propositions and provided Californians with an important perspective on policy issues. She also fought for better regulation of long term care insurance policies.

I know what a dedicated advocate Lois was for senior issues because she was not only a community treasure; she was also a dear friend. She was a constant—and vocal—reminder of the importance of Medicare as a lifeline for seniors, and of Medicaid as a social safety net. She tirelessly advocated for other programs such as the Older Americans Act and one of its signature programs, Meals on Wheels. Lois was a true inspiration to me—she was active even through her golden years—and her memory will be a lasting one both to our community and to me and my family.

Lois received much well-deserved recognition for her work. In 1999, she was named Woman of the Year in the 43rd Assembly District and was appointed to the Commission on Aging by then Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa. This important commission is a principal advocate to the state on behalf of older individuals. To Lois, one of the most exciting distinctions she received occurred in 1997, when as a representative to a national senior organization, she was chosen to introduce then-President Bill Clinton. Lois also traveled widely in her role as President of the International Senior Citizens Association, attending conferences in Guadalajara, Manila, Toronto, and Dublin.

She is survived by a devoted family, including her husband of over 68 years, Frederick E. "Ted" Wellington, daughter Barbara Dunbar Erman, son Rick Wellington, grandsons Larry and Mike Erman and Edward and Peter Wellington, and great grandchildren Sean Erman and Hailey Wellington.

Lois was passionate and knowledgeable about her work, extremely energetic and an inexhaustible, wonderful, beautiful, gentle spirit. Our community is better for having known Lois, and I want to express my heartfelt condolences to her family and friends. She will be deeply, deeply missed.

HONORING THE LIFE OF REVEREND LEANDER WILKES

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Reverend Leander Wilkes, who passed away on November 24, 2005.

Leander Wilkes, the youngest of eight children, was born on September 20, 1924 in Pine Bluff, Arkansas to Jackson and Lillie Wilkes. After receiving his education in Arkansas and Ohio, he took a position with the government. In 1942 he met and later wed, Thelma Benson. To this union, five children were born, Deidre Gail, Lucy Naomi, Leonard Bruce, Jamaal Keith, and Leo Benson. He was ordained a Minister in Oakland, California in 1952. Subsequently, he was called to Ventura, California where he served as Pastor at Olivet Baptist Church for ten years. He moved to Second Baptist Church of Santa Barbara, California in 1969 and remained here for 35 years. Reverend Wilkes retired in July of 2004 and became the Pastor Emeritus of Second Baptist Church.

Reverend Wilkes was a lecturer in the Department of Black Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He enjoyed reading and researching Egyptology along with other ancient religions and philosophies. Reverend Wilkes was also an avid traveler, and fan of western television shows and movies. An excellent cook, he enjoyed preparing his specialties, gumbo and barbecue, at family gatherings. Reverend Wilkes was an active leader in our community who touched the lives of countless people. Family and friends will remember him for his integrity, wisdom and compassion.

I have known Reverend Wilkes for many years and remember fondly when he accompanied my late husband, Congressman Walter Capps, to Washington, DC in 1997, where he

led the House of Representatives in prayer. Reverend Wilkes was a dedicated husband, father, and servant to his church community and the Santa Barbara community as a whole. His longtime service to residents of the Central Coast deserves to be recognized and celebrated. I feel privileged to have known Reverend Leander Wilkes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on H. Res. 571 on November 18, 2005 (Rollcall No. 608). Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE THAT DEPLOYMENT OF FORCES IN IRAQ BE TERMINATED IMMEDIATELY

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this politically-motivated resolution. I believe this resolution does a disservice to the courage my colleague from Pennsylvania has shown in seeking to open a dialogue on one of the most important issues facing our country today—how we can be successful in Iraq while putting in place a process that begins to bring our troops home.

And let there be no mistaking my colleague's motivations. Congressman MURTHA is a highly decorated Marine veteran and a Vietnam War hero. His love for and loyalty to the brave men and women who wear our Nation's uniform is sincere. It is profound.

I agree with his characterization of the war in Iraq—specifically how errors by this administration and negligent Congressional oversight have compromised our mission there and put our troops in harm's way.

And I agree that next year must be a time of transition in Iraq, allowing Iraqis to take control of their country. America cannot support another year of "staying the course" with no end in sight, as the president continues to propose.

The time has come for the Bush administration to implement a new strategy for Iraq—one that both safely brings our troops home and brings stability and security to the country and throughout the region. To get there, we must consider the various proposals for success in the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, that is a discussion we in this body have waited far too long to have. Now is not a time for the partisanship this majority has shown in bringing this political resolution to the floor. The American people expect better from their representatives in Congress—particularly on a matter such importance. They deserve better.